



Special Bulletin: New Federal Legislation Fostering Connections for Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-351) February 2009



The Fostering Connections for Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 (FCSIAA) was signed into law on October 7th 2008. This new legislation codifies many expectations of the Child and Family Services Reviews and has built upon the Adoption and Safe Families Act to create additional support for good child welfare practices to achieve safety, permanency and stability. Goals of the new legislation include:

- Children's health oversight and coordination
- Educational Stability
- A Subsidized Guardianship program option for foster parents and relatives
- Fostering Connections Grants to provide funding to support implementation
- Tribal Access to IV-E funding
- Re-authorization of Adoption Incentives
- De-links Adoption Subsidy from AFDC income requirements

- Concerted efforts required to keep siblings together
- Transitional Plans for Youth aging out of foster care.
- Support for Foster care up to age 21 as a state option.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has identified four areas in the Act that require state legislation. These areas include:

- Due diligence to identify and notify relatives within 30 days of a child's placement in foster care [section 471(a)(29)]
- Assurances that school age title IV-E recipients are full-time students [section 471(a)(30)]
- Case plans include a plan for educational stability of the child while in foster care. [section 475(1)(G)]
- Case plan include transition plan for youth emancipating from foster care [section 475(5)(H)]

Since the passage of the new legislation the department has drafted proposed legislation and is implementing policies and procedures for compliance on these issues. The Department has also initiated discussions with the Iowa Child and Family Services Stakeholder Panel on implementation issues surrounding the act. Portions of the FCSIAA were the key topic areas in the last meeting of the stakeholder panel in November and will be a primary component of the agenda in January. The department is anticipating additional outreach as the work to implement sections of the FCSIAA continues.